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[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/garcia/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/garcia/)

For Immediate Release  
March 2, 2006

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## **Sen. Garcia introduces legislation to allow increased probation period for child abusers**

*Bill would enable judges to watch abusers for a longer period*

**LANSING** – State Sen. Valde Garcia, R-Howell, unveiled legislation today that would allow an increase in probation to a maximum of five years for individuals convicted of a child-abuse misdemeanor.

Under current law, a district judge may sentence a convicted child abuser who has committed third- or fourth-degree child abuse to a maximum of two years probation. Sen. Garcia said his amendment, Senate Bill 1110, is imperative in light of the recent Ricky Holland case.

“This bill will help ensure that those who have a history of abuse will be under a watchful eye for a longer time,” Garcia said.

The current probation period for child abuse is well under the allowed five-year maximum probation placed on individuals convicted of misdemeanor stalking and sex offenses. Garcia said the intention of the legislation “is to send the message that those who abuse a child will merit far more attention than in the past and that repeated abuse will not be tolerated.”

Third-degree child abuse occurs when a person knowingly or intentionally causes physical harm to a child. Fourth-degree child abuse occurs when a person’s omission of information or reckless act causes physical harm to a child.

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